



Media Advisory

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 10, 2014

MEDIA ADVISORY

TEEN SUICIDE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

PHOENIX – Rep. Heather Carter, R-Cave Creek, will host a news conference on legislation that encourages teachers to sign up for comprehensive training on mental illness and suicide.

“By making teachers more aware of mental illness and the signs of suicide, our children will be safer,” Carter said.

HB 2605 allows educators to count suicide awareness and prevention training programs as continuing education credits, giving an academic incentive to them to gain the skills needed to recognize when students may be at risk.

In Arizona, suicide is the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-19. While some of these suicides occur without any outward warning, most people who are suicidal do give warnings. Educators play an important role in recognizing the warning signs and knowing what to do to support students at-risk and their families.

Leann Hull, who lost her teenage son to suicide just over a year ago, will tell her story; the legislation is in a large part based on Rep. Carter’s work with Hull. Steve Schiro, from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, also plans to speak about national efforts to prevent teen suicides.

In addition to Rep. Heather Carter, Rep. Doug Coleman, R-Apache Junction, will discuss his experience as a teacher, and Rep. Ethan Orr, R-Tucson, will share his work on mental health.

WHO: Reps. Heather Carter, Doug Coleman and Ethan Orr; Leann Hull - mother who lost her son to suicide; Steve Schiro, Arizona Chair of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

WHAT: News conference on suicide awareness and prevention, and the need for HB 2605

WHEN: Tuesday, March 11, 2014, at 11 a.m.

WHERE: Rose Garden at the Arizona House of Representatives (on west side of House) 1700 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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